

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 08633 271401Z
ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T TEL AVIV 8633

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IS
SUBJECT: RABIN'S DESIRE TO VISIT THE U.S.

1. AMOS EIRAN, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM THE U.S., NOTIFIED AMBASSADOR TOON THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIM PRIOR TO THE AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE. A MEETING WAS ARRANGED FOR THE LATE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 26 IN JERUSALEM.

2. EIRAN SAID THAT THE GOI WAS ANXIOUS TO HAVE RABIN VISIT WASHINGTON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THEY DID NOT CONSIDER IT WORTHWHILE TO PRESS THIS MATTER ON THE OLD TEAM BECAUSE THEY REALIZE THE DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BY THOSE IN OFFICE AFTER JANUARY 20. IT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE AT ANY TIME FOR RABIN TO GO TO THE U.S. UNOFFICIALLY TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ISRAELI BOND DRIVE BUT THE GOI DID NOT WISH TO GO THAT ROUTE. WHAT THEY WANTED WAS AN INVITATION FROM THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, PREFERABLY SO THAT RABIN COULD VISIT WASHINGTON BEFORE THE LABOR PARTY CONVENTION WHICH IS NOW SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 22. THIS WAS, AS EIRAN PUT IT, TERRIBLY IMPORTANT FOR RABIN'S CHANCES IN HIS INTRA-PARTY CONTEST WITH PERES. IN ADDITION, IT WOULD ALSO
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BE IMPORTANT THAT RABIN RETURN WITH THE NEWS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S AID REQUEST WAS BEING ADJUSTED UPWARD IN ISRAEL'S FAVOR.

3. IN RESPONSE AMBASSADOR TOON SAID THAT, AS EIRAN KNEW, HE WAS DEPARTING ISRAEL WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR

HOURS. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT IT
QUITE UNLIKELY THAT THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION WOULD
WISH TO MAKE A DEFINITE DECISION NOW ABOUT INVITING
RABIN ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT AS EARLY AS FEBRUARY; THERE
ARE MANY PRESSING PROBLEMS AND DECISIONS FACING ANY
NEW ADMINISTRATION. AS FAR AS THE AID REQUEST WAS
CONCERNED, THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE THOUGHT IT UN-
REALISTIC FOR THE ISRAELIS TO EXPECT ANY SUBSTANTIAL
INCREASE ABOVE THAT APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT.
HE SUGGESTED THAT THIS BE TAKEN UP WITH THE SECRETARY BY
AMBASSADOR DINITZ.
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